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With those who do not examine it attentively, this will pass for a book of great research, because it revives the declining interest in a passage of history which has been neglected of late years. But it will require still greater research on the reader's part to discover what passages in Cromwell's life this great bonfire has lighted up. It is easier to find those which were formerly clear, but are made obscure in the work before us by throwing them needlessly into shade. We do not think that this book compares in value or interest with that on the French Revolution, though it has defects of the same description. Eloquent passages and original humor, of course, there must be ; but the writer is still oftener oracular, conceited, and portentous, and his waggery is sometimes untimely and intolerable, "like him that singeth songs to a heavy heart." On the whole, these pictorial histories are of no great service to the cause of truth ; the great talents of this writer might be employed to better advantage ; and though his desperate and indiscriminate admirers will tell him otherwise, the world would lose nothing, if he would leave this field to less original, but more patient and laborious writers.

ART. VI. — *The Greece of the Greeks.* By G. A. PERDICARIS, A. M., late Consul of the United States at Athens. New York : Paine & Burgess. 1845. 2 vols. 12mo.

THESE entertaining and well written volumes are from the pen of Mr. G. A. Perdicaris, a gentleman born in Greece, but an American by education and adoption. Many of our readers will remember a very interesting course of lectures, delivered by him in different parts of the United States, between 1833 and 1835, upon the literature of Modern Greece. The subject was new to all but a few scholars, and the accomplished lecturer treated it in a manner highly attractive to all who held the name of Greece in honor, for her illustrious achievements of old in every path of glory, and for the noble manner in which she had, within the present century, thrown off the yoke of the barbarian. Those lectures contained the

materials for a valuable work on the Modern Greek literature ; and we hope the author may be induced by the favorable reception of the present volumes to give to the public the fruits of his former labors.

In the year 1836, Mr. Perdicaris received from the government of the United States the appointment of American consul for Greece. In November of the following year, he embarked at Boston, and, after a voyage of sixty days, arrived at Athens, where he took up his abode. This work contains the substance of his observations on the state of the country during his residence there. He was the first American consul who represented the government of the United States at the Grecian court. Whatever estimate may be placed upon the honor of having received so classic an appointment, the emoluments of the office will not be likely to attract those patriotic gentlemen who delight to serve their country for a consideration. Mr. Perdicaris's diplomatic labors extended through the period of five years ; at the end of that time, the receipts of his office amounted to the sum of thirty-six dollars and ninety-six cents ! We have not heard whether Mr. Polk has fixed upon a successor.

The official position of the writer, he being the only diplomatic representative of our country at the court of King Otho, gave him favorable opportunities for informing himself of the character of the society and the policy of the government in that classic land ; and we are sure that the conclusions of so intelligent an observer will be received with the attention to which the circumstances under which they were made fully entitle them. The style in which this book is written is remarkably idiomatic and lively. There are some errors, such as a foreigner can hardly be expected to escape ; and to these must be added a pretty large number of typographical blunders, some of them such as seriously to mar our pleasure in reading the book. The sketches of scenery have much picturesque beauty, and are drawn at first hand from nature. The delineations of manners and customs have great merit, showing knowledge and vigilant observation. Mr. Perdicaris enjoyed the double advantage of being at once an educated foreigner and a native. He brought with him an ample accumulation of science gathered in the course of his literary and professional studies in America, and added to this the peculiar insight which his Grecian nativity gave him ; that mag-

netic sympathy with the characteristic modes of thought which belong to the fatherland, and which can never be acquired perfectly by the denizen of a foreign clime. We feel, therefore, while reading his volumes, that we have an authentic exposition of the institutions and character of Greece, not made up by slightly skimming over the surface of the country and its present social organization, but drawn from a profound knowledge of the inmost sources of Grecian thought, the springs that secretly move the machinery of Hellenic life. It is this circumstance which gives a peculiar value to the work.

The subject is doubtless one of the most interesting that attract the attention of enlightened men in our day. The revival of the nationality of the Greeks, after so many ages of Roman and Turkish oppression, is a phenomenon that stands solitary in political history. No mind imbued with the smallest tincture of literary cultivation can contemplate it, surrounded as it is by the most brilliant associations of the triumphs of genius in letters and arts, without a deeper interest than any mere series of political events, however important, can inspire. The revolution by which the Greeks vindicated the honors of their illustrious descent was welcomed by the irrepressible sympathies of the civilized world, and no political calculations of government could wholly repress the active coöperation of the nations with the Greeks in the attempt to throw off the detested yoke. The history of that revolution abounds in all the revolting atrocities of barbarous war; and as we read its pages with breathless interest, we are pained to find that the long oppressed descendants of the founders of European civilization too often disgraced themselves and their cause by retorting upon their Turkish oppressors the heathenish cruelties of which they had themselves so long been the victims. But on striking the balance between the contending parties, the result is to the honor of the Greeks.

The difficulties of the country had not ended, — indeed they had hardly begun, — when the providential battle of Navarino, where the Turkish naval power was annihilated by the combined fleets of Russia, France, and England, in 1827, put an end in effect to the long-drawn conflict of arms. The actions that followed were only the spasmodic struggles of fanaticism and tyranny to hold their victim still in their clutches. The energetic measures of Count Capo d'Istrias, who had recently

been appointed president, seconded by Tricoupi, his able secretary of state, and by the *Panhellenion* assembled at Napoli di Romania, together with the intervention of the high powers, led to the final pacification of the country, though not on terms very satisfactory to the inhabitants. The great powers, simply because they *were* great powers, proceeded in the most arbitrary manner to settle the affairs of the distracted state. A boundary was arranged which excited the discontent of the Greeks of all parties, and which will probably lead to another conflict with Turkey ; a government was imposed, supported by foreign bayonets, and a loan, to be repaid from the scanty revenues of the nation, without asking the nation's consent ; and though a constitution was promised, the promise was not performed, until the people, with arms in their hands, extorted the royal assent. At this moment, Greece is laboring under heavy pecuniary embarrassments, forced upon her by the arbitrary will of foreign cabinets, and increased by the foolish and profligate expenditures of their intrusive government. But she has gained a recognition of constitutional principles of government ; she has dismissed the hordes of Bavarians who for years devoured her substance ; she holds, by her representative assembly, some control over her finances, and has subjected the king's ministers to some degree of responsibility ; and she has at least the consolation of knowing, that, excepting the royal family, her governors are Greeks. Difficulties still remain. Intriguing agents of the great powers may still distract the country and retard her prosperity ; but if she continues to manifest the wise moderation which distinguished the remarkable movement of her recent bloodless revolution, she cannot fail to secure an honorable position among the civilized nations of our age.

The plan and object of Mr. Perdicaris's book may be gathered from the following sentences in the preface.

“ The struggle and the subsequent independence of the Greeks called into existence new objects of interest, and a new order of writers. But these, like those who went before them, appear to be better acquainted with the ancient than the modern Greeks, and — with a few honorable exceptions — they belong to that noble band who have been valorously engaged in fighting over the memorable battles of Plataea and of Marathon. It is not, of course, intended, by these remarks, to convey the idea, that the works alluded to are deficient in merit, or wanting in interest :

they are all excellent in their way; but their authors, though imbued, to a greater or less degree, with the spirit of ancient Greece, were but little acquainted with the language and the genius of the modern Greeks; and their books are but ill calculated to supply us with a work, the avowed object of which would be to acquaint us with the present condition of Greece and the Greeks. This is the main object of the following work, and the reader will allow me to remark — by way of explanation — that on my return to my native land, and during my residence in the capital of the kingdom as American Consul, it was my good fortune to become acquainted with almost all the noted Greeks of the day, and through them with the events of the past and the prospects of the future. Mere historical facts are the property of all; but my views and opinions on men and things, though expressed by myself, are to be regarded as the views and the opinions of the Greeks in general; — in this respect my Greece is ‘the Greece of the Greeks.’

“It was not, of course, possible, while travelling over the classical and hallowed scenes of ancient Greece, to resist the temptation of paying them a passing tribute. This was neither possible nor desirable; but my main object being the condition of modern Greece, I have confined myself to the narration of such events as form a portion of her history, and to the description of those institutions and internal resources, by means of which she must subsist or perish.” — Vol. I. pp. 4–6.

Preliminary to the main part of the work, Mr. Perdicaris gives a series of comments on the history of the existing government. The negotiations with Prince Leopold, the present king of Belgium, having failed, for reasons highly honorable to that distinguished personage, the courts of France, England, and Russia, in May, 1832, offered the crown of the new Greek state to Prince Frederick Otho, the second son of his majesty the king of Bavaria. The prince, being a minor, was accompanied by a regency consisting of three members, not one of whom was a Greek. A loan of sixty millions of francs, to meet the expenses of organizing the state, and to support the government until the revenues of the country should be developed by the operation of stable political institutions, was made by the high contracting parties, and secured upon the future resources of the nation. An army of four thousand mercenaries was introduced and quartered upon the exhausted people, for the greater security of the throne. Under such circumstances, it was perhaps too

much to expect that the true interests of the country would be rapidly promoted by the application of an enlightened policy. The oldest and most experienced governments have at no time been famous for taking the shortest road to the accomplishment of the greatest amount of public good. Here, the difficulties of the problem were increased by every circumstance that the ingenuity of man could devise. An intrusive government ; a minor prince, in the hands of a regency whose only state maxims were the official formulas of a Teutonic despotism ; a country reduced to the last stages of poverty by a long and bloody war ; a debt of twelve millions of dollars contracted before any of the means for its payment had been secured ; — these circumstances in the condition of Greece at that time might well have discouraged more experienced and wiser men than the pedantic statesmen who governed in the name of Otho during his minority. Some useful measures were adopted. The country was divided and organized with a view to the administration of justice. In these arrangements, however, ancient traditions were consulted quite as much as modern necessities. The capital was fixed at Athens, though, in the opinion of the best judges, more than one place might have been selected better adapted than the site of the ancient metropolis of Attica to all the purposes of a modern centre of government and of commercial transactions. The borrowed funds were not judiciously or economically administered. Hungry adventurers from Bavaria were supported in idleness around the court of Otho, upon the money which was to be repaid with interest from the scanty earnings of the people who had had no voice in these matters. Facilities of transport and communication, the encouragement of agriculture, a judicious distribution of the public lands, a wise encouragement of immigration from among the Greeks who were still left under the Turk, attracted comparatively little attention from the philosophers who were playing at government in the infant monarchy. The discipline, uniform, and pay of the military, the building of a clumsy but costly marble palace for the king, the establishing and keeping up of the etiquette of the court, weighed more heavily upon their minds.

The great interest of public instruction was not, however, neglected. The zeal and enthusiasm with which the Greeks responded to the government in this laudable work proved that the fire of the old Hellenic spirit was not extinguished. The

University of Athens, organized upon the general principles of those of Germany, was supplied with a large body of learned professors, and crowded with the flower of the Grecian youth. The precious remains of the ancient genius of Athens were carefully treasured up, and placed under the guardianship of an eminent Athenian scholar, Mr. Pittakes, who holds the office of Conservator of Antiquities, and watches over them as a sacred deposit. The disorders that reigned in the interior, in consequence of the anarchy of so many years, were in time suppressed. The system of professional robbery, organized under the leading of the mountain klephts, gave place to the reign of law, and the most noted chieftains who had survived the revolution yielded with the best grace they could to a power which they found it vain to resist.

The operation, therefore, of the intrusive Bavarian government has not been wholly evil. But it has been charged — and the reproach must be shared between the actual government and the great powers which brought the government into existence — with a gross political fraud, — a breach of promise in withholding a representative constitution, according to the terms expressed in the protocols antecedent to the treaty which placed Otho on the throne. Doubtless the government in this matter committed a violent outrage upon the liberties of Greece; and it is a wonder that the explosion was so long postponed. But German cabinets have a violent antipathy to granting constitutions, especially if they have been promised, — as was memorably shown after the downfall of Napoleon. The Greeks bore this agony of neglected promises and hope deferred, as long as they possibly could; but the government at length reached the last drachma of their borrowed money, and foreign creditors began to press for pay, and the poor little king was obliged to confess he had not a *lepton* in his purse; nay, more, that he probably should never pay the debt he already owed, unless they would again lend him a helping hand. Like Bassanio, he was forced to appeal to the Russian, French, and English Antonios in pathetic tones: —

“ *In my school days, when I had lost one shaft,
I shot his fellow of the selfsame flight
The selfsame way, with more advised watch,
To find the other forth; and by adventuring both,
I oft found both. I urge this childhood proof,
Because what follows is pure innocence.*

I owe you much ; and, like a wilful youth,
That which I owe is lost ; but if you please
To shoot another arrow that self way
Which you did shoot the first, I do not doubt,
As I will watch the aim, or to find both,
Or bring your latter hazard back again,
And thankfully rest debtor for the rest."

This crisis gave the Greeks an opportunity to interfere in their own affairs. By a revolution quite unexampled in history, in which the people showed themselves determined, without being violent, — in which, with arms in their hands, they forbore to shed blood, — in which, with temptation to extort it by force, they chose to demand a constitution as a right, and the king had the wisdom to yield what he could not but know was on every account a claim of justice, they secured, by the memorable movement of September 3, 1843, "a social compact, which is destined to protect, for ages to come, the prerogatives of the throne and the rights of the nation."

By this revolution they not only gained their own constitutional liberties, but prevented the threatened interposition of the great powers, — the exacting creditors who were on the point of seizing the debtor's goods and chattels, and of placing the unfortunate king in a sort of durance vile. It was a measure as much for the security of the government as for the political liberties of the governed. In the ancient history of Greece there are few political events that compare with this in wisdom and grandeur. The proper history of the kingdom of Greece will date from this period.

"The allied sovereigns," says Mr. Perdicaris, "are in no way responsible for the conduct of Greece ; and having no responsibility, they have no right of supremacy. It is true they have assumed the title of Protectors, and Greece in her days of sorrow submitted to it. But the age of tutelage is over, and it is high time they had from Greece the reply her Diogenes gave to Alexander the Great, when he asked what favor he should confer upon the Philosopher." — Vol. I., p. 21.

Mr. Perdicaris arrived at Athens on the 6th of January, 1838. The following morning he entered the city of Minerva in a hackney coach. The scene is thus picturesquely described.

"As soon as we reached the shore, we engaged a hack, and

started without delay for Athens. We had scarcely disentangled ourselves from the streets of the Piræus, and the low heights to the northeast of it, when the plain of Athens, with its olive groves and its mountains, with its glories of art and of nature, unrolled itself to our view. Our attention was, for a while, arrested by the dark olive grove, which contains 80,000 trees, and also by the public road, which winds its way through groves and vineyards to the city of the 'blue-eyed goddess.' But the farther we progressed into the plain, the more we began to admire its chief characteristics, the more we were impressed by its mountain barriers. 'As the city of Athens,' says Mr. Wordsworth, 'was both protected from external aggression, and also connected with the sea, by means of its long walls, as they were called, which stretched from the town to its harbour, so was the plain of Athens defended from invasion, and maintained its connection with the coast by its own long walls,—that is, by its mountain bulwarks, namely, by Parnes and Ægaleos to the west, and by Pentelicus and Hymettus on the east; and thus, the hand of nature had effected for the plain what was done for the capital of Attica by the genius of Cimon and of Pericles.'

"Parallel with Mount Hymettus, and at no great distance from it, runs that light and graceful chain of rocks which forms so beautiful a feature in the scenery, and at the same time separates the valley of Ilissus from the plain of the Cephissus. The continuation of this chain is exceedingly irregular. In one part it sinks to a level with the valley; in another it rises in precipitous and lofty masses. The highest peak is Mount Anchesmus; but the most abrupt and the most inaccessible is the Acropolis of Athens. Its high and tabular form seems to have been fashioned by the hand of nature as a *scopos* or stage for the survey of her magnificent works; and the same platform was seized upon by the Athenians as the most appropriate position for the shrines and the temples which they erected in honor of their guardian gods, and in triumph of their genius.

"The glittering Acropolis, and Hymettus, to the rear of it, rose above the earth like a vision; they were as full of beauty as they were of novelty. But, notwithstanding our familiarity with some of the more prominent objects in the picture, the general aspect of the country was not only unlike, but in perfect contrast with, every thing we had seen. The plain was as soft and as beautiful as the sky above it; but the nakedness of the mountains was so complete and so singular, as to appear defective and unnatural. There is a very prevalent idea with the Greeks, as well as with some of the European residents, that the whole of the country has undergone a great change since the better days of Greece:

that the hills and the mountains have lost, by use and misuse, their woods and forests, and that this has been followed by a corresponding change in the climate. To this they attribute the want of rain during the summer season ; to this the long lost murmurs of the Ilissus. This idea, however, which is brought forward as something new, is, in fact, as old as the hills. Plato, in his *Critias*, attributes the aridity and the sterility of Attica to the same cause, — to the loss of the woods, which, according to the traditions of *his* times, were swept to the sea by an extraordinary fall of rain. Since the days of Plato, the land has undergone great changes : its verdure and its groves have disappeared with the disappearance of cultivation, and we look in vain for the noble Plane-trees which shaded the banks of the Ilissus, and the philosophic walks of the Lyceum ; and its mountains, which, to the eyes of the uninitiated, appear so altered, are, perhaps, the only objects that have not altered, — the only features of the country that would be recognized by its ancient inhabitants. The mountains of Attica, with their unencumbered forms, like the writings of the classics, require both study and taste, in order to be duly appreciated ; but once seen and appreciated, their recollection and effect remain with us through life.

“ To the left of the road, and between it and the hills of the Phalerum, we noticed the monument of Karaiskaki, and the tumulus which conceals the bones of those who fell in the different battles, near and about Athens, in 1825 and '26. There are few objects more interesting, or more intimately connected with the modern history of the country, than these simple and impressive monuments, and they form an appropriate entrance to the city ; but, like most of the travellers to this country, we swept hurriedly by them, and, passing through the olive groves, began to ascend the higher grounds. The Acropolis, with a part of the Parthenon and the Propylæa, had been before us ever since we left the Piræus, but the greater portion of the city had been hidden behind the hills, and the first object which caught our eyes, and for a while fastened our attention, was the temple of Theseus. Before we had time, however, to take even a hasty and general view of its chaste and beautiful proportions, we were hurried in our crazy vehicle into the no less crazy suburbs of modern Athens ; and for the first time we found ourselves among realities too wretched and too miserable not to disappoint and dishearten us : we were willing to attribute our disappointment to the ideal picture we had formed of the city in anticipation, and made every possible excuse for the miserable and poverty-stricken looks of an object with which we were determined to be pleased : but there was the thing, and neither love nor patriotism could alter or soften its features.” — Vol. I., pp. 25–29.

The next chapter contains a very interesting summary of the modern history of Athens, dating from the year 1456. The present state of the city is therein described. The following remarks upon the services of Mr. Pittakes will be read with interest.

“ Had there been nothing else, the clearing of the Propylæa, and the restoration of the temple of Victory, would have been sufficient to entitle Mr. Pittakes and his coadjutors to the gratitude and the praise of all those who are interested in the antiquities of Greece ; but to these he has added other services, less apparent, perhaps, to those who have not watched their progress, but not less important or less interesting. Mr. Pittakes has been intrusted with the task of clearing the whole of the Acropolis ; and, in the execution of this work, he had to carry out and throw down an immense mass of rubbish, and a great number of private and public buildings. The task was sufficiently Herculean, and it was rendered the more so by the want of means ; for Mr. Pittakes, like the hero of old, had to clear the Augæan mass with little or no aid from the government or the Society. Notwithstanding the many obstacles in the way of the Conservator-General, the whole *epipedon* or level of the Acropolis has been cleared ; every abomination has been thrown out ; and so completely has this work been done, that the different divisions and the original pavement of the Acropolis may be now seen, even by the inexperienced in antiquities ; and while the ground has been disencumbered of those objects which impaired the proportions of the temples and the monuments, the work has been attended with the further advantage of recovering such fragments of art as had been spared by time and the impious spoilers. Among these are pedestals of statues, friezes, altars, inscriptions, and other relics of art, which, though effaced and mutilated, are in many instances of great historical value. Nor are these fragments few, or altogether deficient in intrinsic merit. The gallery to the left of the Propylæa, two or three rooms to the rear of it, five or six vaulted cells, and a great portion of the open space between the Propylæa and the Parthenon, are literally filled and strewn with the fragments of this great storehouse of sculpture. In the upper rooms of one of the private buildings still standing, there is a large and interesting collection of vases and urns, worthy to stand by the works of the great sculptors. Some of these terracotta creations are so light in substance, and so graceful in form, as to claim for the old pot-makers of Greece a place in the pantheon of her artists. In the different collections, and in various parts of the Acropolis, there are many bas-reliefs and alto-relievos of admirable execu-

tion. Most of these belong to the ornaments and the friezes of the different temples in the Acropolis, and are therefore doubly interesting; but among them there is one intrinsically and superlatively beautiful. This relieve represents the Goddess of Victory in the attitude of tying her sandal. She has lost her head, and yet she is so perfectly captivating, so like a thing of life and feeling, that the memory of her light and graceful form haunts me like a revealed mystery of the beautiful.

“Fortunately, the blocks of marble which were parts of the temples themselves, having nothing to excite the cupidity of the spoilers, and being too heavy for transportation to northern climes, were left to lie among the rubbish, and are now at the disposal of the artist. The shafts of the columns, their capitals, and the blocks which belong to the north and south sides of the Parthenon, lie in one confused mass; and though no effort of man is perhaps sufficient to renovate the ‘shattered splendor’ of this matchless temple, the taste and ingenuity of experienced artists may be so far successful as to replace the fallen fragments in their original positions, and thus fill out at least, or restore, its proportions. This has been successfully attempted with the temple of Victory, and there is no reason why it cannot succeed to a certain degree with that of Minerva. The latter, like the former of these temples, is now in a process of restoration, and there is something interesting even in the partial success that has attended the enterprise; there is something both cheering and emblematic in this restoration of the Greek temples by the hands and under the auspices of the modern Greeks. Should the now fallen columns of the Parthenon rise, and the now absent gods return to the pedestals they once occupied,—as it is to be hoped they may,—the whole civilized world will have occasion to rejoice in the triumphs of modern Greece.”—Vol. I., pp. 49–53.

Mr. Perdicaris gives a very favorable account of the king and queen of Greece. To most readers sketches of living persons will probably have a greater interest than the ruins of antiquity. We shall make no apology for offering the following lively passage.

“My presentation to the queen took place the day after. As soon as I entered the saloon, I felt that I was in the presence of a beautiful and amiable being. My situation, however, was somewhat embarrassing, when I found that I had to make myself agreeable through an interpreter, and also in the presence of two maids of honor and a very ugly-looking master of ceremonies.

“Her Majesty, whose personal appearance is exceedingly captivating, and whose blue eyes are as mild as they are eloquent,

had little to say about the American commerce or the navy. The appearance of the New World, the grandeur and majesty of its rivers and forests, and the beauty of the American ladies, were the objects in which she felt an evident interest, and about which it was my good fortune to gratify her curiosity. To my account of the American ladies she listened with pleasure, and I had half a mind to tell her that some of them were as beautiful as herself; but recollecting that I was talking through an interpreter, I doubted the propriety of such a compliment, and contented myself by assuring her that the American ladies were deeply interested in Greece, and that they had every reason to hope that the land of all that was beautiful in nature, and interesting in association, would be as happy and as prosperous under the light of her Majesty's virtues, as it once was under the protecting care of Minerva!

“Queen Amelia is the daughter of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg. She was born the 9th of December, 1818, was married on the 22d of November, 1836; she is youthful, and so interesting in her person as to be justly considered the most beautiful queen of the age. She is not indeed one of those dazzling beauties that overwhelm us at first sight, but she is so very simple and so very amiable in manners and temper, that we are apt to forget the queen in our admiration of those virtues and those graces which belong to a lovely woman. She is just the woman that Titian would have delighted to paint. She has a fine and pliant form, fair hair, blue eyes, clear complexion, and a smile — *Παυλίανον*.

“Otho is surely to be envied both as a king and a husband. With Greece for his kingdom, and with Amelia for his consort, he has all that fortune can give to a monarch,—all that God can bestow upon a happy mortal. King Otho ought to have been something extraordinary both as a king and a man, not to suffer by contrast with his kingdom and his queen. Without being an admirer of his government, I have a higher idea of the king's intellectual abilities, and a greater respect for his moral worth, than has been awarded him by those who, unable to be his friends, have resolved to be his enemies, and who see no virtues or redeeming qualities in his mind or heart.” — Vol. I., pp. 55–57.

Further on, the following paragraph should be added to complete the picture.

“Otho has not proved superior to the will of his fate. He has suffered, and still suffers under it; but while he is not a wonder or a wonder-maker, he is by no means destitute of those high excellences which are necessary to the formation of a good king.

Without being an Alexander or a Napoleon, he is, fortunately for Greece, a man of honest intentions and industrious habits. To his sense of justice, and reliance upon an overruling Providence, which becomes and adorns his exalted station, he adds the humbler, yet equally necessary, virtues of an austere economist. Otho is an upright and religious man: no stain and no immoral intrigues can be said to sully his character or disgrace his household. His court is a model of good order; and the Greeks have reason to bless heaven for having placed before them — before the eyes of their wives and their children — such examples of domestic happiness and virtue as their king and queen.” — Vol. I., p. 60.

Another chapter contains an interesting account of the court and the political parties of Greece. It touches on many topics important to a right understanding of the condition and prospects of the country, but we must pass them over. The society of modern Athens is a curious and attractive theme. It has grown up within a few years, and presents to the stranger a sufficiently party-colored aspect. Besides the remnant of the native Athenian population, the establishment of the court there has drawn together Greeks from every part of Europe and Asia, and adventurers from England, France, Italy, and especially Bavaria. Some are attracted thither to enjoy the classic associations of so renowned a spot; others hope to mend their fortunes by the opportunities created for enterprising men in a just forming society; others seek a profitable investment of capital, where capital must of necessity command a high rate of interest; others still speculate in house-lots. It is not long since we read in one of the Athenian newspapers an advertisement, in very tolerable Greek, of a most desirable piece of ground near the temple of Theseus, setting forth the conveniences of the *location* as to omnibuses (*Παμφόρεω*) and the like. Such ideas confound all our established modes of thinking. An omnibus and the temple of Theseus stand at the opposite ends of the chain of our intellectual associations. Imagine the slayer of the Minotaur jumping into the “old line,” on his return from one of his little excursions, and getting out at his father’s door. Had these convenient vehicles run every half hour at a moderate price, in those days, the old gentleman’s fatal mistake would never have been made. We cannot forbear making an extract or two from this entertaining chapter.

“ The *haute volée* of Athens may be seen almost every day, either at noon, when the music of the royal band calls them before the palace, or when the cool of the evening invites them to their promenades; but the *people* are too busy to join in these recreations, and those who are interested in them must watch for the occasions when they gather to celebrate their national festivals under the olive groves of the Academy; on the ‘purple hills of the flowery Hymettus’; before the temple of Theseus; on the banks of the classical Ilissus; and under the majestic columns of the Olympian Jupiter. It is at these places, and at stated times of the year, that we see something of the *Greeks*, and are called to witness scenes which remind us of the olden times of Greece.

“ The public festivals of the modern Athenians are almost all of them connected with religious rites, and though their origin is buried in the depths of antiquity, it is more than probable that they are remains and modified forms of those religious ceremonies and national festivals which were celebrated in these very regions, and perhaps on these identical localities, by the ancient Athenians. The stated pilgrimages of the modern Athenians to the hills of Hymettus, their picnic parties to the groves of the Academy, and their dances before the temple of Theseus, are much like the festivals of the olden times, and may be reminiscences — fragments, perhaps, of the Panathenian processions and the Eleusinian mysteries. These are not the only instances of similarity between the popular institutions of the modern and ancient Greeks; and Colonel Leake has justly remarked, that ‘the classical traveller cannot be many days in Greece, without remarking numerous instances in which the present people retain both the *customs* of the earliest ages and the *modes* of expressing them in language.’

“ The principal places of amusement in Athens are the coffee-houses and the Leschæ, or the reading-rooms; the former of which are the resort of the many, the latter of the élite. Both are supplied with means of amusement and gratification, — with coffee, pipes, newspapers, &c. But the Lesche is provided not only with the local newspapers, but with the journals and the periodicals of the rest of Europe, and it is furnished in a style highly creditable to the taste and the liberality of the Greeks. This establishment is of course open only to its members, and such strangers as may be introduced by them. Thus far it answers a good purpose; for besides its being a place of agreeable *reunion* for the inhabitants of the place, it affords to distinguished visitors a good opportunity of seeing the news of the day. The reading-rooms, however, like the coffee-houses of Athens and of

Greece, are the favorite resort of loungers; they are to the modern Greeks what the Stoas and the Leschæ were to the ancients; and if it is painful to see the coffee-shops in the best of her cities crowded from morning till midnight with the refuse of their population, or with babbling idlers, whose sole occupation seems to be the business of others; if it is painful to meet with such a sight when Greece is suffering more for want of hands than for want of tongues, it is equally, nay more painful, to see some of her best citizens leaving their wives and their children at home, and resorting night after night to the reading-rooms, to waste their time in descanting upon the affairs of nations, — “the balance of power,” or the “question of the East.” The reading-rooms, indeed, differ from the coffee-houses only in degree, but not in kind, — the one is the lower and the other the upper house of parliament.” — Vol. 1., pp. 82–85.

The description of the suburbs of Athens has many points of interest for the classical scholar. An account of the island of Eubœa, which Mr. Perdicaris visited in 1838, in the company of Mr. Mansolas, the ex-minister of the interior, and of Captain Diamandis, a noted chief of Mount Olympus, will be quite novel to most readers of Grecian travels. The following chapter records a journey to Thebes, in the course of which most of the points of historical and literary interest are pleasantly noticed. The party “reached the city of Cadmus a little after five o’clock, P. M., and put up at a khan in Epaminondas street!” Of the present condition of the city Mr. Perdicaris says: —

“At the end of the revolution, the city was left a heap of smoking ruins; and those of its inhabitants who escaped the sword, and succeeded in gathering around them their household gods, — a few tin pans and earthen pots, — are struggling with the first essays of life, which are the more difficult, as the worthy descendants of Epaminondas and of Pindar had to begin life with nothing. In the course of their servitude, they had lost their paternal estates, and they were obliged to purchase their present possessions from the government, at the extravagant prices of three, four, and even five hundred dollars per acre, — a state of things ruinous to themselves and to the true interests of the country.

“The plains of Bœotia abound in rich lands, and the city, though inland, is yet so favorably situated as to be within a few hours’ distance from three seas, — the Saronic and Corinthian gulfs, and the ports of the Eubœic frith. In addition to this, the great national road, which is to be extended from the capital of

the kingdom to its confines to the north, has already reached the city of Thebes, and its inhabitants are thus enabled to send the produce of their fields, and even the vegetables of their gardens, to the market of Athens." — Vol. I., pp. 129, 130.

Those classical scholars who have extended their studies into the Attic kitchen will be pleased to know that the far-famed Copaic eels illustrate and confirm by their present excellence the praises bestowed on them by the ancients. For the benefit of all such gentlemen, and of classical learning in particular, we select a portion of Mr. Perdicaris's experience on this savory subject. The reader of Aristophanes will doubtless remember the figure that the Copaic eel makes more than once in his amusing plays. Besides the passage cited by Mr. Perdicaris, a pretty emphatic eulogy is pronounced upon them in the *Lysistrata*. The chieftainess of the "Rights of Woman" party, in that most whimsical comedy, proposes

"That all Bœotians perish utterly";

to which another replies, —

"Not all; not all; pray *do* except the eels."

With these introductory and culinary remarks, we present what Mr. Perdicaris has to say.

"During our day's stroll through the streets of Thebes, I saw in the market some fine Copaic eels, and recollecting the praises which the ancients bestowed upon them, I determined to test the truth of their remarks. The cook was therefore ordered to buy the largest of them, and prepare it in the true classical style for our dinner, or the next day's picnic in some grove, or by the side of some fountain in the course of our journey to Livadia. Accordingly, the eel was bought and roasted, but there being no other mode of keeping it out of harm's way during the night, it was put in a basket and suspended in the centre of the apartment. In the course of the night, the flavor of its contents, which were rich enough to provoke the immortals, brought to the khan all the Heliconian cats, and their attempts to get at the basket threw us into a great consternation. One of them missed the basket, and fell upon my next neighbour, while two others were more successful; but being unable to divide the spoils amicably, they commenced open hostilities high up in the clouds. The cause was so unthought of, the alarm so sudden, and the cry so loud and so terrible, that every one of us was startled, and for a while I thought

that the 'seven' of Æschylus had come upon Thebes in right earnest.

"About two o'clock in the afternoon, we alighted at a khan in the vicinity of an abundant spring. The khangee, who had nothing but dry bread and cheese, provided us with some delicious grapes, which had been cooled in the crystal waters of the neighbouring fountain; but the best thing before us was the Copaic eel, which had been roasted on the spit, in leaves of Apollo's laurel, the substitute of the beet leaves of the ancients, and sprinkled with lemon juice; it was indeed a 'delightful morceau for mortals'; and after the experience of the day, we were not only willing to pardon the cats for the trouble they had given us in the course of the previous night, but ready to indorse the extravagant opinions of the ancients.

"With Mount Helicon and Copias in sight, and the eel before us, we were better prepared to enter into the merits of the dialogue between Dicæopolis and the Bæotian, in the Acharnenses of Aristophanes, than the most learned professors in the universities of Germany. Plain facts throw better light than sublime theories.

"*'Dic. (addressing the Bæotian). O thou that bearest the sweetest bit to man,*

If eels thou bearest, grant me speech with them.

Bæot. (taking the eel by the tail). Fairest of fifty dear Copaic maids, Come forth and welcome graciously this stranger.

Dic. (in ecstasies of delight). O dearest one, long looked for wistfully, Thou comest welcome to the tipsy quires.

And dear to Morichus; ho! slaves, bring forth

The brazier, let us have the bellows, too.

Boys, look your fill at that most noble eel,

Brought hither after six whole years of longing.

Speak to her, children; I will fetch the coals

For this fair stranger's sake; come, bring her on,

"For I will never, even after death,

Be parted from thee" — dressed with leaves of beet.'"

Vol. I., pp. 132 – 136.

We have not space to follow Mr. Perdicares through the remainder of his most agreeable account of this journey, which extended to the northern boundary of Greece, and included most of the places distinguished in classical history or associated with the late heroic exploits of her sons. The incidents of the journey are told in a very lively manner, and the magnificent scenery through which a great part of it lay is described with the vividness of poetry and painting. The last chapters of the first volume are taken up with visits to the islands of Tenos, Andros, and Ægina.

The second volume is equal in interest, spirit, and picturesque beauty to the first. It ought to be mentioned, that, while the work was going through the press, the printing-office was burnt down, and with it the entire manuscript and the proof-sheets of the second volume. Mr. Perdicaris had the energy to sit down immediately and rewrite it all. Some delay occurred in the publication, but not so much as might have been supposed. The style of this volume exhibits the vigor which would naturally be looked for from one who was capable of such a gallant literary exploit. It is chiefly occupied with a journey through the Morea. It contains the most striking delineations of the country and the people, and the clearest and most satisfactory picture of life in the Peloponnesus, under the new order of things. But having quoted so largely from the first volume, we must content ourselves with this general indication of the character of the second. The reader will be particularly interested by the sketches of Colocotroni and Petrom Bey, two personages whose names have already become historical. The work concludes with an excellent chapter on the present condition of Greece, which we can only recommend to the attention of the reader.

ART. VII. — *History of New Netherland ; or New York under the Dutch*. By E. B. O'CALLAGHAN, Corresponding Member of the New York Historical Society. New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1846. 8vo. pp. 493.

THIS work is creditable both to its author and its publishers. Mr. O'Callaghan is of opinion that full justice has not yet been done to the history of the first settlement of New York. So far from agreeing with Chancellor Kent in the sentiment expressed in his historical discourse, that "the Dutch colonial annals are of a tame and pacific character, and generally dry and uninteresting," he says he has found them "teeming with every material which could render historical research a work of pleasure and improvement." We admire this spirit, even when we cannot quite come up to it. It is the main-spring of all antiquarian investigations. Without it, very certainly, the volume before us could never have been